

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF VAGINAL SWAB SPECIMENS
FOR AMPLIFIED, NON-CULTURE**

N. gonorrhoeae, C. trachomatis or T. vaginalis TESTING

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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1. Specimens will be collected using a Gen-Probe Aptima Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection Kit as follows:
 - a. Ensure that patients read and understand the patient collection instruction before providing them with a collection kit.
 - b. Partially peel open the swab package. **DO NOT TOUCH** the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the tip is touched or the swab is laid down, open a new kit to collect the specimen.
 - c. Remove the swab from the kit, holding it between your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the shaft covering the scored line.
 - d. Carefully insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches past the introitus and gently rotate the swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab.
 - e. Withdraw the swab without touching the skin.
2. Without laying the swab down, remove the cap from the swab specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the transport tube. **Do not discard the preservative in the tube.**
3. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score-line; use care to avoid splashing of contents. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly. Dispose the swab shaft following your institution's policy for contaminated medical waste.
4. Label swab's tube with the same name/unique identifier used on the requisition.
5. Record the name/unique identifier on the swab's tube for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the patient.
6. Package and send the specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible to decrease the potential for equivocal results.
7. Place up to five, properly labeled transport tubes, into the plastic bag with the adsorbent provided and seal the bag.
8. Place the sealed plastic bag containing the tube(s) and adsorbent material into the polystyrene foam shipping container provided
9. Wrap **completed** test requisition(s) around outside of polystyrene container and slide the container and test requisition(s) into the cardboard shipping sleeve.
10. **Complete** and apply return shipping/Biological Substance label provided to shipping sleeve and transport by the most rapid and convenient means available (e.g., a courier, bus, or U. S. First Class, Priority, or Express mail etc.) to the appropriate laboratory as indicated on the shipping label.

NOTE: If the specimen container is received leaking, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition, or the specimen is greater than sixty days old when received, it will not be tested.

NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.